

**PEAK TO PEAK DETECT METHOD TO PROTECT SEEK/SETTLE  
INDUCED ENCROACHMENT**

5

**Field Of The Invention**

The present invention relates generally to magnetic storage  
10 technology. More particularly, the present invention relates to protecting  
data integrity from mechanical resonance in a magnetic storage system.

**Background of the Invention**

15 Technological advances in magnetic storage allow data to be stored  
in ever smaller physical dimension. For example, track widths in magnetic  
tape or disk storage have become so small that mechanical vibrations  
which once were irrelevant can now cause writing errors. For example  
when a read/write head positions itself over a desired track, oscillations on  
20 the mechanical structure of the head can be large enough that a write  
function writes data outside the allowed track width, resulting in write  
error.

When a read/write head operates, it is moved in a seek operation.  
This operation locates and moves the head to the proper position for, *e.g.*,  
25 writing data. When the seek operation ends and the head is in position,  
there is a time period during which vibrations in the head must be allowed  
to settle. To deal with problems of this nature, settling algorithms are  
typically used which monitor the transient response and attempt to  
prevent write operations until the settling is completed. Shorter settling  
30 times typically permit more errors, while longer settling times, though less  
error prone, increase access and/or write time for the apparatus. Hence,

settling times are typically kept as short as possible while still preventing as many errors as possible.

Non-consecutive settling algorithms employ multiple samples to determine whether settling has occurred. For example, if 2 consecutive  
5 position error signal (PES) samples are within 8% of track pitch and the corresponding velocity is within 6% of track pitch, then a settling counter of the algorithm is decreased by one. If this happens a predetermined number of times (*e.g.*, 8 times in some implementations) the settling count reaches zero and settling is considered complete.

10 While such algorithms greatly decrease write error rate, certain frequency mechanical oscillations can still cause the settling algorithm to fail. For example, seek-induced coil bending resonance creates mechanical oscillations in the range of 900-1600 Hz, which can cause write errors despite the settling algorithm. The consequences of failure lead directly to  
15 reliability failure due to data encroachment outside the desired track, caused by data written with marginal PES.

Hence, the present state of the art would benefit from improvements to write operations that further limit these errors without unnecessarily extending the delay in write operations.

20 The present invention provides a solution to this and other problems.

### Summary of the Invention

The present invention involves a system and method for improving  
5 alignment of heads in magnetic storage systems. In a preferred  
embodiment, an algorithm is implemented that detects movement by the  
head outside a threshold, indicating the head is not yet settled. In a  
preferred embodiment, this information is obtained from the PES. Upon  
detecting such movement outside the threshold, the settling counter is reset  
10 so that the settling algorithm continues to run. Thus, the present invention  
provides a way to determine if settling is complete, and resets it if it is not.

This innovation provides a check on the settling algorithm, and thus  
prevents data writing if the drive is oscillating. It also allows normal  
operation of the settling algorithm if there is no oscillation, and is hence  
15 invisible when it is not needed.

In one example embodiment, the present invention detects the peak  
to peak movement of the write head by monitoring a PES signal. If  
movement (for example) is beyond a threshold distance from track center,  
the settling counter is reset. Noise and other irrelevant signals such as high  
20 frequency vibrations that will not affect alignment are preferably filtered  
by incorporating a low pass filter on the peak to peak detector.

The present invention also can be implemented as a computer-  
readable program storage device which tangibly embodies a program of  
instructions executable by a computer system to implement the innovative  
25 system and method.

These and various other features as well as advantages which  
characterize the present invention will be apparent upon reading of the  
following detailed description and review of the associated drawings.

### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a magnetic disk drive consistent with a  
5 preferred embodiment.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the printed circuit board of the magnetic disk drive system.

FIG. 3 shows an oscilloscope capture of a PES output demonstrating settling of a write head.

10 FIG. 4 shows an oscilloscope capture of a PES output implementing a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 shows an oscilloscope capture of a PES output implementing a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

15 FIG. 6 shows a flow chart for process steps implementing a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIGs. 7-1 and 7-2 show flow charts for implementing a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

### Detailed Description

Referring now to the drawings, and initially to **FIG. 1**, there is  
5 illustrated an example of a disc drive designated generally by the reference  
numeral **20**. The disc drive **20** includes a stack of storage discs **22a-d** and a  
stack of read/write heads **24a-h**. Each of the storage discs **22a-d** is  
provided with a plurality of data tracks to store user data. As illustrated in  
**FIG. 1**, one head is provided for each surface of each of the discs **22a-d** such  
10 that data can be read from or written to the data tracks of all of the storage  
discs. The heads are coupled to a pre-amplifier **31**. It should be  
understood that the disc drive **20** is merely representative of a disc drive  
system utilizing the present invention and that the present invention can be  
implemented in a disc drive system including more or less storage discs.

15 The storage discs **22a-d** are mounted for rotation by a spindle motor  
arrangement **29**, as is known in the art. Moreover, the read/write heads  
**24a-h** are supported by respective actuator arms **28a-h** for controlled  
positioning over preselected radii of the storage discs **22a-d** to enable the  
reading and writing of data from and to the data tracks. To that end, the  
20 actuator arms **28a-h** are rotatably mounted on a pin **30** by a voice coil  
motor **32** operable to controllably rotate the actuator arms **28a-h** radially  
across the disc surfaces.

Each of the read/write heads **24a-h** is mounted to a respective  
actuator arm **28a-h** by a flexure element (not shown) and comprises a  
25 magnetic transducer **25** mounted to a slider **26** having an air bearing  
surface (not shown), all in a known manner. As typically used in disc drive  
systems, the sliders **26** cause the magnetic transducers **25** of the read/write  
heads **24a-h** to "fly" above the surfaces of the respective storage discs **22a-d**  
for non-contact operation of the disc drive system, as discussed above.

30 When not in use, the voice coil motor **32** rotates the actuator arms **28a-h**

during a contact stop operation, to position the read/write heads **24a-h** over a respective landing zone **58** or **60**, where the read/write heads **24a-h** come to rest on the storage disc surfaces. As should be understood, each of the read/write heads **24a-h** is at rest on a respective landing zone **58** or **60** at the commencement of a contact start operation.

A printed circuit board (PCB) **34** is provided to mount control electronics for controlled operation of the spindle motor **29** and the voice coil motor **32**. The PCB **34** also includes read/write channel circuitry coupled to the read/write heads **24a-h** via the pre-amplifier **31**, to control the transfer of data to and from the data tracks of the storage discs **22a-d**. The manner for coupling the PCB **34** to the various components of the disc drive is well known in the art, and includes a connector **33** to couple the read/write channel circuitry to the pre-amplifier **31**.

Referring now to **FIG. 2**, there is illustrated in schematic form of the PCB **34** and the electrical couplings between the control electronics on the PCB **34** and the components of the disc drive system described above. A microprocessor **35** is coupled to each of a read/write control **36**, spindle motor control **38**, actuator control **40**, ROM **42** and RAM **43**. In modern disc drive designs, the microprocessor can comprise a digital signal processor (DSP). The microprocessor **35** sends data to and receives data from the storage discs **22a-d** via the read/write control **36** and the read/write heads **24a-h**.

The microprocessor **35** also operates according to instructions stored in the ROM **42** to generate and transmit control signals to each of the spindle motor control **38** and the actuator control **40**. The spindle motor control **38** is responsive to the control signals received from the microprocessor **35** to generate and transmit a drive voltage to the spindle motor **29** to cause the storage discs **22a-d** to rotate at an appropriate rotational velocity.

Similarly, the actuator control **40** is responsive to the control signals received from the microprocessor **35** to generate and transmit a voltage to the voice coil motor **32** to controllably rotate the read/write heads **24a-h**, via the actuator arms **28a-h**, to preselected radial positions over the storage  
5 discs **22a-d**. The magnitude and polarity of the voltage generated by the actuator control **40**, as a function of the microprocessor control signals, determines the radial direction and radial speed of the read/write heads **24a-h**.

When data to be written or read from one of the storage discs **22a-d**  
10 are stored on a data track different from the current radial position of the read/write heads **24a-h**, the microprocessor **35** determines the current radial position of the read/write heads **24a-h** and the radial position of the data track where the read/write heads **24a-h** are to be relocated. The microprocessor **35** then implements a seek operation wherein the control  
15 signals generated by the microprocessor **35** for the actuator control **40** cause the voice coil motor **32** to move the read/write heads **24a-h** from the current data track to a destination data track at the desired radial position.

When the actuator has moved the read/write heads **24a-h** to the destination data track, a multiplexer (not shown) is used to couple the head  
20 **24a-h** over the specific data track to be written or read, to the read/write control **36**, as is generally known in the art. The read/write control **36** includes a read channel that, in accordance with modern disc drive design, comprises an electronic circuit that detects information represented by magnetic transitions recorded on the disc surface within the radial extent of  
25 the selected data track. As described above, each data track is divided into a number of data sectors.

During a read operation, electrical signals transduced by the head from the magnetic transitions of the data sectors are input to the read channel of the read/write control **36** for processing via the pre-amplifier **31**.  
30 The RAM **43** can be used to buffer data read from or to be written to the

data sectors of the storage discs **22a-d** via the read/write control **36**. The buffered data can be transferred to or from a host computer utilizing the disc drive for data storage. Position detector **44** also accepts output from the head **24** that charts the head movement in both position and time to ultimately create a position error signal (PES).

The present invention incorporates a method of detecting peak to peak distance of a PES signal during settling mode. The PES signal is monitored to detect two consecutive PES peak values (a positive and a negative peak) and if the peaks are outside a predetermined threshold, then the settling count is reset or the settling criteria are reinitialized.

A further implementation includes checking the time distance between the two consecutive peaks. If the two peaks are within a predetermined time of one another (indicating the oscillations are above a predetermined frequency) then the response is ignored. This feature helps ensure that high frequency noise that will not affect head alignment do not trigger resetting of the settling algorithm. This feature can also be implemented as a low pass filter in some embodiments, as detailed further below.

**FIG. 3** shows an oscilloscope capture of a PES output. The horizontal axis unit is time, the vertical axis unit is distance perpendicular to the track. In this example, a single drive head trace is shown. Trace D **302** is the PES output, trace B **304** is the settling window. When trace B is high, the head is moving through tracking mode or otherwise is not settled. When trace B is at a low level, the servo is either in seek mode or in track follow mode, and the head is considered settled by the system, meaning write is allowed. In track follow mode, read/write firmware allows writing data to the disc. In **FIG. 3**, the data begins (on the left of the graph) with the PES going through high frequency oscillations. These oscillations decrease in frequency, at which time the system enters settling mode (where trace B goes high). The servo switches from tracking mode back to settle mode



several times before it finally stays within tracking mode. Note the multiple short duration transitions from high to low of the B trace. These oscillations will cause data to be written with marginal PES, or even PES slightly above threshold because of the time delay before the servo is made  
 5 aware that the PES is outside the settling threshold. Hence, in this example, data is written during time periods when the settling algorithm is unaware of large PES values.

**FIG. 4** shows a scope capture showing the results of the present innovation. Again, trace D **402** is the PES, which oscillates with similar  
 10 frequency as in **FIG. 1** when it enter settling mode. Trace B **404**, the settling window, stays in settling mode until the PES oscillation amplitude falls within a threshold track pitch peak to peak value. In this example, a threshold of 24% track pitch is used. The pulses of trace C **406** indicate where the peak to peak detection algorithm is functioning, resetting the  
 15 settling count. On the left half of the graph, where the PES **402** is not settled within threshold levels, trace B **404** shows a high (unsettled) state. But note that trace C indicates the settling count is reset a number of times during trace B's high period. The resetting of the count is indicated in trace C by the spikes, which are aligned with the PES signal where it goes beyond the  
 20 threshold.

In a preferred embodiment, the present invention is invisible to the system in cases where it is not needed. In other words, the peak to peak detection function should not delay writing in situations where it is not invoked. **FIG. 5** shows a scope capture demonstrating this property for the  
 25 presently preferred embodiment. This figure shows a sequential seek/settling scope capture where the coil bending mode was not excited, shown by trace D **502**. The smooth PES transient from settle to track follow mode is shown by trace B **504**, which has one section in a high state (depicting unsettled tracking mode). Since there are no transient peak  
 30 movements outside the threshold, trace C **506**, which represents detection

of peak to peak distance beyond the threshold, shows no movement. Hence, the present invention does not affect normal operation of the write head unless settling failure is indicated.

**FIG. 6** shows a flow chart for a process implementing a preferred embodiment of the present invention. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention is implemented in the servo actuator control 40. It should be noted that other implementations are possible. The preferred example process starts with initialization of the settling algorithm parameters, including the settling algorithm count (step 602). Next, the threshold value for allowed offset of the read/write head is set, preferably by setting a minimum and maximum value for the peak thresholds (step 604). The first peak is detected (step 606) then the following peak is detected (step 608). A determination is made whether the time difference between the two peaks is greater than a predetermined time threshold (step 610). If the time difference between the occurrence of the two peaks is below a predetermined time threshold, then the process returns (step 612). This step allows filtering of high frequency noise from the response, and helps prevent invocation of the settle counter reset when unnecessary. If the time difference is above the predetermined time threshold, indicating a relatively low frequency (~900-1600 Hz) mechanical resonance oscillation, then the process checks the distance between the two peaks to determine if the peak to peak maximum is beyond the allowed threshold (step 614). If the peak to peak distance is within the threshold, the process returns (step 616) and continues monitoring peak to peak distance. If the peak to peak distance is outside the threshold, the settling counter of the settling algorithm is reset (step 618). The process then returns to monitoring peak to peak distance (step 620).

The present invention guarantees that data is written with a small PES by tuning the peak to peak value limit. In an alternative embodiment, a low pass filter is added. Such a filter makes the detection algorithm more

robust to high frequency noise, and prevents resetting of the settling algorithm due to such noise. A low pass filter can also be used in lieu of or in addition to the minimum time between peaks threshold discussed in **FIG. 6**. Both implementations filter out high frequency noise. Also in a preferred embodiment, the first peak detected by the detection algorithm is ignored because it is typically caused by normal tracking overshoot/undershoot. Eliminating the first peak detected from consideration prevents resetting of the settling algorithm counter when tracking overshoot/undershoot occurs but when no mechanical vibrations are present. This reduces the number of times the settling counter is reset in situations where resetting is not necessary.

It should be noted that although the preferred embodiment shows the time threshold between peaks is determined in the process before the physical distance between the peaks is determined, the order of these two determinations can be varied, detecting peak to peak distance before the time, for example.

**FIGs. 7-1 and 7-2** show a preferred implementation of the present invention. This example shows a protective peak to peak detect algorithm that works on top of existing settling criteria, without generating drive performance loss for cases where the protective algorithm is not invoked. The algorithm is preferably robust to high frequency noise which might be caused by electrical noise or servo channel demodulation errors. Preferably there is no logical code change for any existing non-consecutive settling criteria. The protective algorithm is preferably designed to capture multiple frequencies, for example, in the 900 Hz to the 1600 Hz range. It preferably also does not generate false triggers caused by normal seek arrival induced PES over or undershoot.

In the flow of **FIGs. 7-1** and **7-2**, the following terms are used.

PrimeTFSettle : it is code subroutine name, where some parameters used to  
 5 qualify a seek/settle process will be initialized.

AvgVelocityML: header moving average velocity

Bset/bclr : set/clear a bit (assembly code)  
 10

NextIsMin/Peak2PeakStart/ResetStart: bit variable defined in the  
 assembly code

REGXToGoML : header moving position error variable  
 15

PeakSettleXmin : variable defined in the code for negative peak

PeakSettleXmax : variable defined in the code for positive peak

20 TrkFollowSetl : code subroutine name where qualifies settling process

PeakSettleTimeMin: variable defined to recode time when negative peak  
 happens

25 PeakSettleTimeMax : variable defined to recode time when positive peak  
 happens

PEAK\_POS\_THRESH : constant value defined in the code for peak to peak  
 threshold

SRVO\_SEC\_RESET\_CNT: constant value defined in the code for timing threshold between peak to peak

- 5   Reset Settle Counts : code label where the algorithm is trigged and reset the settling qualification

FIG. 7-1 generally shows an algorithm for initialization of the innovative process. The settling algorithm parameters are initialized and  
10   criteria for the peak to peak protective algorithm are also set. FIG. 7-2 shows an example algorithm for implementation of the innovative process to determine whether the head is settled.

It is important to note that while the present invention has been described in the context of a fully functioning data processing system,  
15   those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the processes of the present invention are capable of being distributed in the form of a computer readable medium of instructions or other functional descriptive material and in a variety of other forms and that the present invention is equally applicable regardless of the particular type of signal bearing media  
20   actually used to carry out the distribution. Examples of computer readable media include recordable-type media, such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a RAM, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and transmission-type media, such as digital and analog communications links, wired or wireless communications links using transmission forms, such as, for example,  
25   radio frequency and light wave transmissions. The computer readable media may take the form of coded formats that are decoded for actual use in a particular data processing system. Functional descriptive material is information that imparts functionality to a machine. Functional descriptive material includes, but is not limited to, computer programs, instructions,

rules, facts, definitions of computable functions, objects, and data structures.

The description of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description, and is not intended to be  
5 exhaustive or limited to the invention in the form disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention, the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for  
10 various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.